



During the 1920s in Germany, it took a lot of postage to mail even a relatively small parcel. Martin O'Grady (#2343) found this block of 70 Germany Scott #141 perforated with the J&V/B pattern of Jacob & Valentin of Berlin. It is the largest used block of German perfins reported so far. Marti says the perfins were cancelled September 4, 1923, when the German mark was changing in value several times a day.

Thanks to Jerry Soutar (#68L), we know that Jacob & Valentin had offices in London, Hamburg, Bremen, and Berlin. The firm was a shipping and forwarding agency. Records show that an Ulrich Rieck was the registered owner of the firm in 1939 but the firm was located in a section of Berlin totally destroyed during World War II. A similar fate befell the Hamburg offices, which were near the Hamburg waterfront. The firm still exists in Hamburg under the name Ulrich Rieck & Söhne Internationale Spedition (International Cargo Agents). It is managed by a grandson of Ulrich Rieck. Soutar speculates that the package bearing the perfins probably contained insured bills of lading.

Joe Bell sent along a photocopy of another 1923 German package cover with a total of 47 copies of Scott #209, the 100,000 mark value of 1923. Some of the stamps bear the AF perfin Accumulatoren-Fabrik Aktiengesellschaft of Berlin. The package also carried several million marks in additional postage.

The difficulty of all this is figuring out the exchange rate of the mark at any given point in 1923.